

We assist many constituents who have difficulties applying for visas and passports. If you have tried to resolve a problem with the State Department and have run into problems, we might be able to help. You will need to fill out a [privacy release form](#). According to the Privacy Act of 1974, your written permission is required for us to inquire about your situation with any federal agency. Just print it, fill it out, be sure to sign it, and send it to our district office address listed on the form.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How do I apply for a visa?

There are many different types of visas and you must first determine for which type of visa you are eligible to apply. Once that is determined, you must file an application. For those filing for immigrant visas, you must file a form with the Citizenship and Immigration Service. For a list of forms, and to download the forms, you may visit the [Citizenship and Immigration Service website](#).

If you are applying for a non-immigrant visa (ie, student visa, visitor visa, temporary work visa, etc.), the beneficiary must apply at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over their place of residence. A list of embassies and consulates is available [here](#).

Q: Am I eligible to file a visa petition for my relative?

Only U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents at least 21 years-old are eligible to file visa petitions for their family members. A U.S. citizen may file this form for their spouse, children, siblings, or parents. Special preferences are given to those filing for their spouse, unmarried children under 21 years-old, and parents. Other petitions may have waiting lists of many years. A U.S. permanent resident may apply for their spouse or unmarried child under 21 years-old. All petitions filed by permanent residents are subject to waiting lists.

Q: How do I apply for a passport?

You must file a passport application with a passport agency to receive a passport. To obtain an application, you may call the National Passport Information Center at: 1-877-487-2778. Applications may also be obtained in person at most U.S. Post Offices. The best information on passports may be obtained by visiting the [Department of State web site](#).

Q: My relative was denied a visitor visa. What can I do?

Some U.S. Embassies and Consulates have particular rules about the number of times an applicant may apply for a visitor visa. Your relative should inquire about the particular rules at the time of their visa interview, should they be denied and wish to reapply.

